

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims previously submitted in relation to the present Application with the following listing of claims:

Listing of Claims:

1 through 22. (previously cancelled without prejudice)

23. (currently amended) A method for preliminarily connecting and thereafter
2 tightening a top onto a container comprising:

placing a distal end of a top near a distal end of a container,

4 pressing one or more radially extending members on the top past one or
more radially extending members on the container,

6 thereby preliminarily connecting the top to the container sufficiently to align
the top with the container and to reduce the chance that the top and the
8 container will become inadvertently separated,

thereafter tightening the top down onto the container

10 wherein said one or more radially extending members on the top are formed
or affixed proximate the distal end of the top between the distal end of
12 the top and threads formed on the top, and

wherein said one or more radially extending members on the container are
14 formed or affixed proximate the distal end of the container between the
distal end of the container and threads formed on the container.

24. (previously amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein said one or more
2 radially extending members on the container are formed or affixed proximate the distal
end of the container.

25. (previously amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein the step of
2 securely tightening a top onto a container comprises engaging threads formed on the
container with threads formed on the top, and thereby screwing the top down onto the
4 container.

26. (original) A method according to claim 25 wherein said one or more
2 radially extending members on the top are formed or affixed proximate the threads
formed on the top.

27. (original) A method according to claim 25 wherein said one or more
2 radially extending members on the container are formed or affixed proximate the
threads formed on the container.

28. (currently amended) A method for temporarily connecting or alternatively
securely tightening a top onto a container comprising:

placing a distal end of the top near a distal end of a container,

pressing one or more radially extending members on the top past one or
more radially extending members on the container,

thereby temporarily connecting the top to the container sufficiently to resist
the chance that the top and the container will become inadvertently
separated, and

thereafter alternatively securely tightening the top down onto the container,

wherein said one or more radially extending members on the top are formed
or affixed proximate the distal end of the top between the distal end of
the top and threads formed on the top, and

wherein said one or more radially extending members on the container are
formed or affixed proximate the distal end of the container between the
distal end of the container and threads formed on the container.

29. (previously added) A method according to claim 28 wherein said one or more
radially extending members on the container are formed or affixed proximate the distal
end of the container.

30. (previously added) A method according to claim 28 wherein the step of
securely tightening a top onto a container comprises engaging threads formed on the

container with threads formed on the top, and thereby screwing the top down onto the
4 container.

31. (previously added) A method according to claim 30 wherein said one or more
2 radially extending members on the top are formed or affixed proximate one end of the
threads formed on the top.

32. (previously added) A method according to claim 30 wherein said one or more
2 radially extending members on the container are formed or affixed proximate one end
of the threads formed on the container.